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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN THE APPLICATION OF:

Karlheinz Hausmann et al

CASE NO.: CL2018USNA

APPLICATION NO.: 10/782211

CONFIRMATION NO.: 5364

GROUP ART UNIT: 1773

EXAMINER: Nakarani, Dhirajlal S.

FILED: 02/19/2004

FOR: Flame Retardant Surface Coverings

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

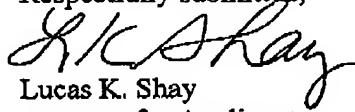
Concurrently with the submission of the accompanying Request for Continued Examination (RCE), applicants submit the amended claims beginning at page 2. Amendment to claim 1 is supported by the specification on page 5, lines 7-15.

The amended claim 1 in this RCE, based on the 02/23/2006 Office Action which indicates that claim 8 is allowable, broadens the acrylate copolymer recited in claim 8, but patentably distinguishes over Narum (US6866928B2).

New claim 11 is the original claim 8 written in independent form. New claim 12 is similar to original claim 2. New claim 13 is disclosed in the specification, page 5, lines 34-35.

The amended claims also overcome the 35 USC 112, first paragraph, rejections pursuant to the 02/23/2006 Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,


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Dated: March 8, 2006